

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 4-16, 18-19 and 21-26 stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 17, 20 and 27 have been allowed. Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4-16, 18-19 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the preamble of claims 18 and 19 refer to method steps yet the base claim is an apparatus claim. In response, claims 18 and 19 have been made dependent upon claim 17.

The Examiner asserts that the preamble of claims 21 and 26 refer to method steps yet the base claim is an apparatus claim. In response, claims 21 and 26 have been made dependent upon claim 20.

With regard to claim 4, the Examiner asserts that “the first controller” has insufficient antecedent basis. In response claim 4 has been made dependent upon claim 3.

With regard to claim 5, the Examiner asserts that “the second controller” has insufficient antecedent basis. In response claim 5 has been made dependent upon claim 3.

With regard to claim 6, the Examiner asserts that “the third controller” has insufficient antecedent basis. In response claim 6 has been made dependent upon claim 3.

With regard to claim 7, the Examiner asserts that “the minimum and maximum values are adjustable” has insufficient antecedent basis. In response, the phrase has been amended to provide a

proper antecedent basis.

Claims 8-16 have also been amended to depend upon claim 3.

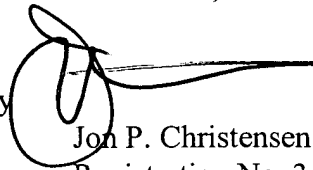
Closing Remarks

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Primary Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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